

Chief, St/I/R

3 January 1957

Chief, S/COM (Coord: S/CM)

Requirement for [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

Background

The Soviet Bloc has shown increasing awareness of the need for improved civil defense and passive defense measures against atomic weapons. One of the advisable steps in preparing for possible air attack is the decentralization of government and the preparation of alternate control centers with adequate communications. In at least one Satellite capital, (Sofia, Bulgaria), the preparation of alternate, protected governmental headquarters outside the city has been reported. It is believed likely that similar steps have been taken in the USSR. The current effort to decentralize the government of the USSR and rumors of the movement of some offices from Moscow may reflect some concrete action to reduce the vulnerability of this great communications and administrative center.

Requirements

1. Is there any evidence of the transfer, dispersal, or thinning out of ministerial offices of the USSR or of the RFEFR, from Moscow and other capitals and key cities?
2. In the event of physical transfer, does such movement constitute the preparation of alternate headquarters for use by a major portion of the administrative staffs?
3. If dispersed governmental centers are being prepared,
(1) what are the alternate locations of specific ministries, directorates or other components?
4. In the events of decentralization, what communications facilities are being established to serve these governmental offices?
(1) alternate center to Moscow? (2) alternate wire line or microwave radio relay routes to interconnect dispersed offices and to connect dispersed offices with a telecommunications center,

-2-

alternative to the Moscow center for national and international communications service?

5. If any such locations become known, full descriptions of buildings would be desirable.

 25X1A9a

ORR/S/COM:JGW:djk/3 Jan 57/ 2841